

**Remarks and Arguments:**

Original Claims 1 through 4 have been rewritten as Claims 12 through 15, to clarify the innovative use in the present Application of Hooke's Law to achieve maximal recovery of stride energy. As noted in the 'Remarks' section of Amendment B, prior art did consider storage and return of stride energy, but achieving *maximal* energy return has hitherto been a trial and error matter. The present invention is the first to provide an explicit formula and a quantitative methodology for maximizing the return of energy. The crucial teaching that differentiates the present invention from prior art, is that there is an essential prerequisite for achieving maximal energy return, and that prerequisite is *the synchronization of the harmonic motion of the shoe with the frequency of stride*. Based on that teaching, it is possible in the present invention to make one additional improvement not present in prior art, namely to explicitly calculate the spring constant required for maximal recovery of the down-step energy.

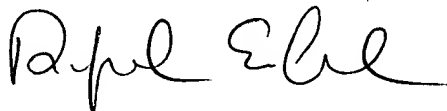
**Conclusion**

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the Specification and Claims are now in proper form, and that the Claims all define patentability over the prior art. Therefore Applicant submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

**Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance**

Applicant has amended the Specification and Claims of this Application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel system which is also unobvious. If, for any reason this Application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. 2173.02 and 707.07(j), in order that the undersigned can place this Application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very Respectfully,



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